

# BASEBALL'S BIGGEST TANGLE SET UP TO JUDGE LANDIS

## JUDGE OVER DRAFT RULE THREATENS GAME'S FUTURE

Big Leagues Now Forced to Pay Exorbitant Prices for Stars, Such as O'Connell, Who Would Ordinarily Only Bring \$7,500, at Most, and They Are Anxious to Have Draft Rule Restored, Which Little Fellows Are Unwilling to Have Done.

By Bozeman Bulger.

The minor league baseball clubs, despite their bush league status, are here with an ace in the hole—the bull ace of the pack—and it's screwed down tight to the table. Unless the majors succeed in talking them out of this hole card next week baseball's going to be in a muddle.

The stage is set. New York is the battle ground. Judge Keneaw Mountain Landis is the main orator. Other good bouts will be offered on the week's card, but this one goes to a finish.

The Judge is too smart a Judge of cards to tell these minor league slickers that their ace is no good. He is trying to figure out a misdeal and a new shuffle; that something went wrong with the cards.

The ace in question is that innocent looking agreement a year or so ago that knocked out the draft rule and prevents the big leagues from making raids on their little brothers and gobbling up players here and there, whether or no. It's a serious situation, and the boys are foregathering to see if something can't be done about it.

So long as the present agreement stands on the baseball books the bushers can sell their stars when and to whom they like. What's worse they can refuse to sell them at all if they take a notion. And there's the fly in the ointment. These minors are sitting in the golden seat because the majors can't move an inch to save their skins without bush league approval and consent.

To talk the boys out of that advantage would be a task for Dumo Dan Morgan, but the big leagues will be in there trying from Monday morning till Saturday night. To fail means that the bushers can either collect large wads of money or cripple the big leagues down to their class. Majors who can't pay the price will never be able to pick up new players to replace their tottering old stars.

To give a case in point: The Giants paid \$75,000 for O'Connell this week. This was the direct result of open bidding. But for the ace in the hole now held by the minors, O'Connell could have been drafted for \$7,500, provided the San Francisco club had not put through a sale before the drafting period started. Under no circumstances could the Giants have had O'Connell for later delivery. If they didn't sell him before the draft they would have to give him up to the lucky club that drew his name out of the hat.

In other words the majors have got to pay, and pay big, or have their clubs deteriorate in quality to nothing more than bush league baseball. Naturally they don't like it; also naturally, the minors do.

### Little Chance for Minors To Advance Now.

But there is another side to the question, the one on which Judge Landis hopes to get action. While it is a great thing for minor league clubs to be able to hold their stars, it is a great thing for the majors to be able to weaken their teams the present agreement another's chances of a player to advance in his profession and in that way hurts baseball. He can be held in the bushes for life unless some major league club pays a fortune for his release. That is not exactly fair.

For instance: A minor league star getting \$4,000 a year can be made to play forever at that salary, if the owners insist on keeping him, regardless of what he might be worth to himself and a major league team.

Judge Landis, seeing the whole structure of baseball endangered, insists that the majors and minors should get together and work out some equitable plan that would make such conditions impossible. That is the main object of the minor-major joint meeting in New York next week. It really is a serious matter.

The minor league association has shown a willingness to talk—or to listen—and W. H. McCarthy of the Pacific Coast League, J. C. Toole of the International League, T. J. Hickey of the American Association and Secretary Farrell of the Minor League Association, holding the ace as a starter, have been sent here to sit and take a hand.

There will be other things besides may turn loose their hole card, but if they do the operation will be accompanied by a loud and prolonged squawk.

There will be other things besides this minor-major debate. New York is to be treated to a whole lot of baseball gables and tell their secrets. Plain business has been shoved to the foreground to a degree that is annoying.

Still are going to have the National League meeting and a quarrel or no quarrel, it will go right along.

The minor-major affair is the main show, unless some unexpected magnate takes a potshot at the old dove of peace. It seems a cinch that the bushers will furnish the spice.

Baseball has reached the novel stage where the minors can get along beautifully without the aid of the majors, but the big leagues can't move a peg without the minors.

Among the early arriving delegates there is much rumor of another big trade by the Giants. For it there is some ground. Fans have just begun to realize that the Giants will be without an outfielder to take the place of George Burns, traded to Cincinnati, for all of next season. While McGraw plans to use O'Connell, the Coast star, in the outfield—he was formerly an outfielder—this expensive fellow does not report to New York until 1932. In the meantime Burns will have gone to the Reds in the trade for Heinie

### YANKEES MAY SECURE CENTREFIELDER VEACH AND PITCHER EMHKE

Manager Miller Huggins of the Yankees is back in the city from Buffalo, where he has been attending the meetings of the minor leagues and finishing several deals that the Yankees figured in last season. The little manager had very little to say that would be of interest to fans at present, but he expects to land a new pitcher and outfielder when the baseball meetings are held next week. Don't be surprised if the Yankees acquire both Bob Veach, outfielder, and Edward Emhke, pitcher, from the Tigers, and give in return Johnny Mitchell, the shortstop, a young pitcher, outfielder, and most of the \$40,000 which Frank Navin gave to Portland of the Pacific Coast League the other day for Pitchers Johnson and Pillette.

Grob, leaving a big gap in the outfield. Undoubtedly McGraw has something up his sleeve. No team could drop a star like Burns for a whole season and not feel it.

When Heinie Grob comes he will be placed at third base and Frisch will be moved over to second, his original position.

By the way, it is not generally known, but McGraw made a strong effort to make the deal so that Jimmy Wilson, Middletown Champion, is likely to sign articles before night for a titular match with Harry Grib of Pittsburgh.

Tex Rickard has promised to straighten out the little difference of \$37,500 between him and Wilson, the money held up from the latter's unsatisfactory battle with Bryan Donnelly in Jersey City last Labor Day, and in addition make the champion an offer of \$40,000 to tackle Grib in a championship match at the Garden in the near future.

Grob, it is understood, is willing to make the match additionally attractive to Wilson by offering him some "real" money, probably \$25,000 to sign articles. Grib feels that he will surely beat Wilson and thus annex the championship. At any rate, he and Manager George Engle are willing to gamble on the proposition, feeling that they will get their later as a championship combination.

Rickard has been angling for this match for some time but with little success. He has made many engagements with both Wilson and his manager, Marty Killelea of Boston, only to be "stumped up" at each appointed hour. Killelea has been firm in his stand that he wouldn't do any business with Rickard until the pro-first settled the \$37,500 account. After that he wanted to have the privilege of saying yes or no to the promoter's propositions looking to a match with any one.

He didn't propose to be wiggle into any agreement with the \$37,500, money he declares due him without any string attachments, as an inducement. "Pay the \$37,500 first and then we will talk of other things," has been the slogan of the Wilson party.

Wilson evidently doesn't need the money very badly, as he feels that he will get it eventually, but up to last night he had flatly refused to have anything further to do with Rickard.

Last night Wilson went to Madison Square Garden to see the bicycle race. He tried to dodge Rickard, but finally was cornered. The promoter sat down and talked with the champion, but could get nothing from him in the way of agreement to a match with Grib. Wilson asserted that all his business was done by his manager, and he didn't wish to say a word one way or the other. He promised, however, to ask Killelea to meet the promoter to-day to talk things over. An appointment was made for this afternoon, and unless Killelea is deaf to all the promotional blandishments the match with Grib will be made.

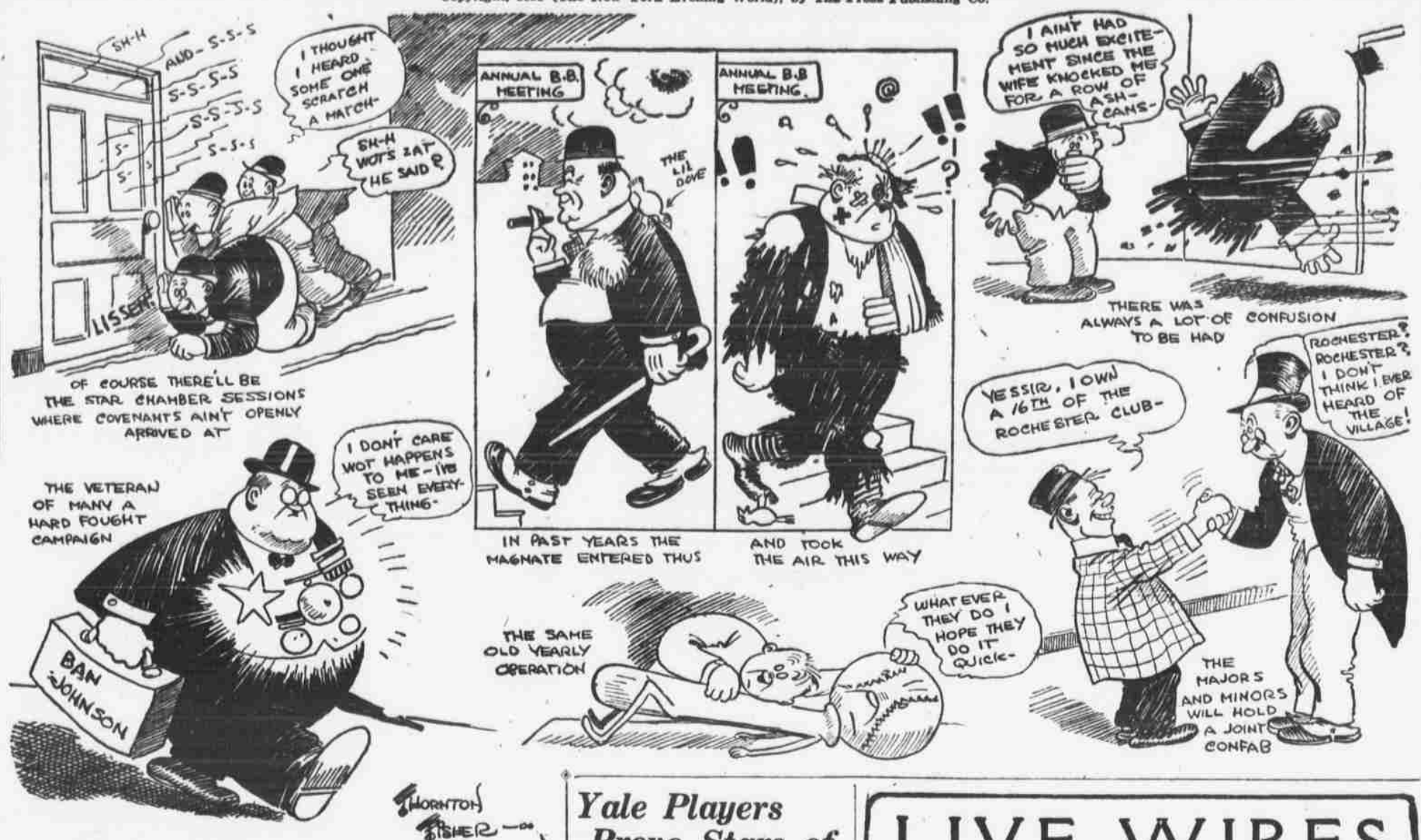
After talking to Rickard, Wilson told the writer that he would defend his championship against anybody, Grib, Tom Gibbons or any one who was ambitious to win the title provided they complied with the Boxing Commission's weight rules—150 pounds at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Horsey Asks \$75,000 and 3-Year Contract.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 10.—Burgers Horsey, leading batter of the National League, now managing the Los Angeles team, has been offered a contract for the California Winter League, will ask Branch Rickey, President of the St. Louis Cardinals, for a three-year contract calling for \$75,000 for that period.

## MANY BASEBALL MEETINGS HERE NEXT WEEK -- By Thornton Fisher

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### \$100,000 as Bait to Lead Wilson Into Match To-Day For Middleweight Title

\$37,500 Old Purse, \$40,000 and Additional \$25,000 May Bring About Fight With Grib.

By Vincent Treanor.

WITH bait of something approaching \$100,000 dangling before his eyes to-day, Johnny Wilson, Middletown Champion, is likely to sign articles before night for a titular match with Harry Grib of Pittsburgh.

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### PRINCETON TO NAME ITS NEW RINK AFTER FAMOUS HOBEBY BAKER

PRINCETON, N. J., Dec. 10.—The name of Hobey A. H. Baker, of the class of 1914, one of Princeton's most famous figures on the football field and ice, who was killed in France in 1918, has been chosen for the new enclosed artificial ice rink, the gift of an anonymous donor and which is now under construction. When completed the rink will be the only one of its kind in the country to be owned by a university and used for intercollegiate sport. It will have a skating surface of 200 by 85 feet. The great "Hobey," who served on the football field as Captain and half-back of the Tiger eleven, was largely responsible for putting the game of hockey on its present, high plane, and is universally regarded as the greatest player Princeton ever turned out in that sport.

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### Yale Players Prove Stars of Squash Tournney

By Neal R. O'Hara.

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A lot of colleges are getting ready for the 1932 football season by firing their 1931 coaches.

Perhaps Fred Stone bid for the Red Sox Club to enhance his reputation as a comedian.

Or maybe Fred saw what Babe did to the acting profession and tried to butt into baseball as a reprisal.

Looks like the Yanks will have to try winning games with base hits for the first six weeks next season.

East is East and West is West. The football writers say. But South is South all winter long. And there the goings stay.

Golf is now an all year round sport if you don't happen to have a business that needs your attention.

Looks like the Yanks will have to start the season with Miller, Ruppert and Lusk in the outfield.

Connie Mack's boys will train in the same place next year and the chances are good they will trail in the same place too.

Giants' line-up now looks like the All-American baseball team for 1932.

THE Australian-American team of McNamara and Madden increased their lead further in the Six Day Race sprint to-day and now look up as certain winners, providing they can hold their advantage in the last desperate hour of continuous sprinting that winds up the race.

Up until a late hour to-day, McNamara and Madden displayed no signs of "cracking" under the severe strain of their sprinting all week. In fact, McNamara, the "Iron Man" of the cycling world grows better as the race progresses and his American partner is in fine shape for the final hour, that will determine the winner.

Van Hevel and Buysse, the Holland team, look like the only rivals McNamara and Madden have and they are trailing the American-Australian combination by more than 130 points.

The Deltuyver-VanKempelen team were dangerous contenders for first place. Goulet and Brocco out for third place. Goulet and Brocco are eliminated as far as winners is concerned. Their only chance of gathering a first money ylies in their gaining a lap before 10 o'clock to-night.

At 5:15 this morning in a series of desperate jama in which the different teams have been trailing made it impossible to gain some lost ground the team of Drobach and Hanley lost another lap. This puts them two laps in the rear of the six leading teams.

An early hour to-day Brocco jumped the field and started off in an attempt to gain a lap. He sprinted the pine-saucer and opened up a wide gap between himself and the rest of the "pack." Brocco tired and Goulet was rushed out on the track to relieve his partner. Goulet tried his best to hold the advantage but after traveling around the track eight laps the rest of the riders caught him. Goulet showed that he was exhausted through his doing the bulk of the work this week and had been the Goulet of the first two

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After 4 o'clock Lang shot out from the rest of the riders and tried to gain a lap. He jumped the rest at a "dead man's" curve. He opened up a gap of nearly half a lap. Lands relieved Lang and increased the lead to nearly a lap. Lands and Goulet were the only riders left to complete their lap. McNamara and Madden after some lightning pickups finally led the rest of the riders on even terms with the tired youngsters.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HOLD TITLE MEET TO-DAY.

The annual elementary schools track and field championships will be decided this afternoon in the 22d Regiment Armory on Washington Heights. Every public school in Greater New York will have its representatives competing on the board floor.

The games are one of the big yearly attractions of the Public School Athletic League. Besides the competitions there will be a parade and the singing of "America" by all the youngsters who take part in the various events and those who come to root. Many State and city officials have accepted invitations to attend. The first event will be run off at promptly 2 o'clock.

Cuba to Depose Killefer Because Giants Get Groh.

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—Rumors that Bill Killefer would not manage the Chicago Cubs next season and that William Veck planned to resign as President of the club were denied by Mr. Veck in a statement last night just before his departure for New York to attend a National League meeting.

"Bill Killefer has signed his 1932 contract and will manage the Cubs," said Mr. Veck. "As for the reports that I planned to resign, I can only say that I had paid \$150,000 to Heinie Groh there might be some truth to the report, but since I did not it is absolutely untrue."

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL. Charles Brickerley, Brooklyn, Glasser, Harry A. A. of Brooklyn, Hobbs Field, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2:30. N.Y. Nat. Nat. Nat. Nat. Nat. Nat.

### LIVE WIRES

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### Six Day Bikers Near Finish With Yankee Team Leading

Only an Accident Can Beat Madden and McNamara in Final Sprints.

By Robert Boyd.

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## WELKER COCHRAN NEXT WEEK MEETS FOREMANS HERE

Record-Holding 18.2 Balkline Players to Clash in 2,400-Point Match.

By Alex. Sullivan.

THE biggest boom is on in billiards in the history of the sport. Every local academy is crowded afternoon and evening. The willingness of such a star as Ralph Greenleaf, the new world's pocket billiards champion to meet all comers, and the startling victory of Young Jake Schaefer over the supposedly invincible Willie Hoppe are two of the factors that have stimulated interest in the game.

Years ago a promoter would never have dared to attempt to stage a contest of so-called "pool players" in a high-class establishment, but that is what they are doing in the case of the debonair Young Greenleaf, who is meeting Arthur Woods in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Astor just before the holidays. "Pool players" are a classy lot now.

All the stars are coming to town to show their wares. Next week at Charles K. Strand Academy, Edward Foreman, European champion and Welker Cochran, holder of the world's high run record at 18.2 balkline of 384, will meet in a 2,400-point match at this style play.

A big cash prize is being offered by Klein and as it is the first match of its kind this season between professional balkline players it is arousing a lot of interest. The match will open Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock and will be continued the same night at 8:30, with two sessions daily at the same periods on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Cochran at one time was considered just as promising a player as Schaefer and many think he will eventually wrest the crown from the new king of balkline play. Cochran proved by achieving the highest run ever made in a balkline tournament, as he did recently in Chicago, that he is capable of great things on the green table.

Foreman, who is considered the best nurse shot player in the world, with his exhibition run of 70, and Cochran, who is considered the best fancy shot and open-table player, furnish a great contrast in brilliant styles.

Cochran is anxious to wrest the world's 18.2 balkline title from Hoppe. Seen last week in St. Louis Hoppe practically appeared to defend his title here. Cochran also intends to challenge Schaefer for the 18.2 title after Hoppe has a chance to recover his lost laurels next March.

Charles Klein of the Strand Academy is confident that he will secure the match between Greenleaf and Frank Taberski. The latter is the player who refused to defend his pocket billiard title which he held up to O'Connell and Madden in 1919, and many experts believe that he is the one player capable of defeating Ralph. Klein is offering a big purse for this match and already has had Greenleaf's acceptance.

At the National Recreation Academy of Brooklyn yesterday, Jake Schaefer, 18.2 balkline champion and Roger Conti, the French champion, divided honors in an exhibition match. Jake won the afternoon block, 600-525, and Conti the evening session 40 to 216.

Joe Lynch, the former bantamweight champion, scored a technical knockout over Maxey Williamson of Philadelphia at the Pioneer Sporting Club last night. Lynch outpointed Williamson all the way, and in the eighth round one of the latter's seconds threw a towel into the ring acknowledging defeat. Williamson took a terrible beating.

In the semi-final bout of ten rounds, Sammy Hultis, the outpointed boxer from Chicago, got the judges' decision over Rocky Walker.

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